

Libary

GOSFORTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Northumberland



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and the

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the

year ended 31st December, 1957.

OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.


Medical Officer of Health Madge Hopper, M.B., B.S., B.Hy. D. P.H.

Senior Public Health Inspector George Stenger, M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector George Oxley, M.A.P.H.I.

Clerks - Mrs. C.E. Raine

Miss W. Oliver.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29263190>

ANNUAL REPORT 1957.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting the Annual Report on the health and vital statistics of the urban district for the year 1957.

The most noticeable change in the vital statistics was a decided decrease in the birth rate to 15.1 per 1,000 population, a lower rate than for previous years and also of the country generally. The still-birth rate was higher than usual.

The total death rate for the year of 12.7 per 1,000 population was slightly higher than for some years and above that of the country; therefore giving a very small natural increase of the population.

An encouraging feature was the fall in the infant mortality rate to a new low level of 14.4 per 1,000 live births, practically half that of the previous year for the urban district and just less than half that of England and Wales for 1957.

The mortality rate for tuberculosis continues at a low level and was slightly below the rate for the country. The incidence of tuberculosis continued to show a slight decline.

Little significant change occurred in the individual causes of death. Those for heart and circulatory diseases increased in number as did deaths from vascular lesion of the nervous system. Deaths from malignant neoplasm dropped very slightly, those of the lungs and bronchi, however, increased by 2. There were 4 deaths from influenza, a higher number than usual. Fortunately deaths from motor vehicle accident declined to 3 from 5 in the previous year.

The number of fatal accidents other than motor vehicle, varies from year to year. In 1957, there was a total of 7, 4 of these being of aged persons at the hospital, suffering from other diseases. There were 3 deaths of residents in this group compared with 2, in 1956.

The total number of notifications of infectious diseases increased very considerably to 863, from 141 in the previous year.

This was almost entirely due to an epidemic of Measles, mainly in the first three months of the year, the large total of 775 cases being notified during the year.

Notifications in previous years had been small, so a considerable number of children were susceptible to the disease. There was a definite decrease in the number of notifications of Whooping Cough, Scarlet Fever and Dysentery, and no case of Poliomyelitis was notified during the year.

An unusual occurrence was the notification of a case of Diphtheria in August. Clinical symptoms were mild but the only organism isolated from the throat was a virulent strain of *C. diphtheria*. Fortunately all the child family contacts had been fully immunised and no further case occurred. This was the first case notified in the county since 1952.

The later months of the year were characterised by an outbreak of influenza which was generally prevalent in this part of Tyneside.

Notifications of primary and influenzal pneumonia increased to a total of 17 from 10, in 1956. As was to be expected, a number of these notifications occurred at the time of the influenza prevalence.

Other services continued steadily throughout the year. Each year brings several cases for investigation under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, and officials of the department and myself spend some time in sifting the cases and in giving the best possible help. It is pleasing to report that formal action, which is only taken as a last resort, was not necessary, other solutions being found. Help for the aged in various ways is a very important need for this urban district in which a large number of elderly people live, often in solitary or semi-solitary conditions.

The Old People's Welfare Committee and other voluntary bodies do extremely valuable work and their activities continue to expand.

My thanks are due to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their continued encouragement and support throughout the year, to Mr. Stonger, Senior Public Health Inspector, to Mr. Oxley, Additional Inspector and to Mrs. Rain and Miss Oliver for their conscientious and active work. Mr. Oxley left in September after eight years excellent service in the department, whose good wishes go with him.

Finally, may I express the sincere appreciation of the staff of the department and myself of the keen, active and always kindly interest of our late Chairman, Councillor Rae Stephenson in all that appertained to the department during his years of office.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
M. HOPPER,
Medical Officer of Health.

1. VITAL STATISTICS.

POPULATION.

The population of the Urban District of Gosforth, which is concentrated in a relatively small built up area, increased slightly by 180 to a total of 24,990, according to the Registrar-General's mid year estimate.

BIRTHS.

There was a noticeable decrease in the total number of births from 416 the previous year to 357 in 1957. This latter figure included 12 illegitimate births.

The birth rate for the district was 15.1 per 1,000 population compared with 17.0 in 1956 and 17.2 in 1955. The birth rate for England and Wales in 1957 was 16.1 per 1,000 births. The slight swing towards a greater number of male than female births observed in the previous year continued in 1957, 35 more male than female births being registered.

During the year, a total of 14 still births was registered, a considerable increase on those occurring in previous years, i.e., 4, in 1956 and 8, in 1955.

The still birth rate was therefore higher being 37.7 per 1,000 total live and still births. The corresponding rate for England and Wales was 22.4.

DEATHS.

The total number of deaths increased to 419, (204 male and 215 female) an increase of 53 deaths on the previous year.

The death rate for the Urban District (corrected for age and sex distribution) was 12.7 per 1,000 population compared with 11.5 for England and Wales and 11.2 for this district in 1956.

Deaths of residents in the St. Nicholas Hospital numbered 128 a slight increase on the number for the previous year.

NATURAL INCREASE OF THE POPULATION.

The excess of live births over deaths during the year, (excluding the deaths of residents of the hospital) decreased considerably to 66, from 170 in 1956 and 139, in 1955.

INFANT MORTALITY.

During the year 4 deaths of infants under one year of age occurred compared with 6 in 1956, 12 in 1955 and 13, in 1954. The infant mortality rate for the urban district in 1957 was 11.2 per 1,000 live births and that for England and Wales was 23.0.

The very encouraging drop in the infant mortality rate in 1956 namely to 14.4 per 1,000 births from 28.7 in 1955 thus continued to the new low level of 11.2, just below half the rate for the country.

Three of the deaths were neo-natal ones (taking place during the first month of life). All were due to prematurity, in one case with the addition of congenital defects. The three deaths occurred during the first few days of life. One death took place at eleven months and was due to gastro-enteritis and bronchitis. It is uncommon nowadays for an infant death to occur from an infective cause.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

One maternal death was registered compared with none in 1956, and one in each of the two preceding years. The maternal mortality rate for the country was 0.47 per 1,000 live and still births.

INDIVIDUAL CAUSES OF DEATH.

Deaths due to heart and circulatory diseases classified as a group increased in number to a total of 217, from 176, in 1956 and 196, in 1955. Ninety-eight of the deaths occurred at the St. Nicholas Hospital.

There was a slightly greater number of female deaths in this group than deaths of males.

In the classification of deaths from 'vascular lesions of the nervous system' deaths increased to 58 from 45 in 1956 and 56, in 1955.

There was a total of 46 deaths from malignant neoplasm compared with 49 in each of the two previous years.

Deaths due to malignant disease of the lungs and bronchi increased slightly to a total of 11 in the year (10 male and 1 female) from 9 deaths in this group in 1956 and in 1955.

No significant variation occurred in the number of deaths from malignant neoplasms of other sites.

Deaths from leukaemia decreased to 2 from 4 the previous year.

Those from respiratory diseases generally remained at a similar level to previous years, there being 29 in 1957, 31, in 1956 and 27, in 1955. Those from bronchitis increased to 21 from 16 previously.

Four deaths from influenza were registered, a higher number than usual. In 1956, one death from this cause was registered.

Deaths from motor vehicle accidents were three compared with 5 in 1956, which was an unfortunate year in this respect.

The number of fatal accidents, other than motor vehicle ones, rose to a total of 7. Four of these occurred in the hospital from accidental falls in aged persons suffering from other diseases. Three were of elderly residents of the district, one was due to a fall, one to a fall in a stream probably in an epileptic fit, and one due to concussion and suffocation. In 1956, 2 deaths were registered in this group and in 1955, there were 10.

There was again a welcome decrease in the number of deaths from suicide to 2 as in the previous year. In 1955 and 1954, 5 and 4 deaths respectively occurred in this group.

II. TUBERCULOSIS.

No death from pulmonary tuberculosis was notified during the year and two from the non-pulmonary form. In the previous year, there had been one death from pulmonary tuberculosis and none from non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

The mortality rate for tuberculosis (all forms) for the urban district was 0.08 per 1,000 population and that for the country 0.107.

The total number of new notifications of tuberculosis (all forms) during the year was 21 (18 pulmonary; 10 male and 8 female, and 3 non-pulmonary; 1 male and two female) compared with the total of 24, (20 pulmonary and 4 non-pulmonary) in 1956.

The figures for 1957 again showed a continuance of the slight steady decline in incidence which has taken place generally during the last few years in both forms of the disease.

This is encouraging but it is noted that there were three notifications of pulmonary tuberculosis in children under 15 years of age and two notifications of males of 20 to 25 years.

Two of the notifications of the non-pulmonary form were in the slightly older age groups of 25-55 years. One only was of a child of 5-10 years.

During the year, 9 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis (6 male and 3 female) were inwardly transferred to the district and one case returned to the register. One case of non-pulmonary tuberculosis was also inwardly transferred.

In the last few years a total of 51 cases already notified in other districts have been inwardly transferred to the urban district.

Patients attend the New Bridge Street Chest Clinic, Newcastle upon Tyne, under the care of the Senior Chest Physician, and are admitted to the Walkergate Hospital and the various sanatoria of the region as required.

Family contacts are kept under surveillance by the Chest Clinic and at home by the Health Visitors, especially children at risk and B.C.G., vaccination is given to children as necessary both at the clinic and school with the parent's consent.

The Mass Radiography Unit visited the district from September 30th to October 4th inclusive when daily sessions were held for the general public and doctors patients.

Altogether 1071 (401 males and 670 females) attended the sessions and of these 21 (9 male and 12 female) were recalled for larger films.

Ten persons (4 male and 6 female) were referred to the Chest Clinic for further investigation giving a percentage of 1 per cent of the total number attending.

One case of active tuberculosis, a female, was discovered almost immediately.

The staff of the Health Department co-operated with the Secretary of the Unit in making the public sessions as widely known as possible.

In addition to the public ones, sessions for groups of people in industry were held, amounting to a total of 536 persons. Other groups outside the boundaries of the district but employing the labour of Gosforth residents were also visited and 74 persons X rayed.

The previous visit of the Unit to the district was in 1954 when 1004 persons, (573 residents and 431 employees) attended. 1.05 percent of residents were referred for further investigation.

III. GENERAL EPIDEMIOLOGY.

The total number of infectious diseases notified during the year was 863, a very big increase on the number of notifications for many years.

The notifications in the preceding years were 141 in 1956, 382 in 1955 and 280, in 1954.

This increase was almost wholly due to an epidemic of Measles which occurred in the first quarter of the year, the number of notifications of other diseases showed only slight variations.

Measles. From January 4th to February 12th, 512 cases of Measles were notified. At this time, the disease was widespread in the district, mainly among children of from 3 to 7 years of age. Fortunately, it was of a mild type and complications were few.

Several neighbouring districts had similar outbreaks about the same period.

By the end of February from the beginning of the year 646 cases were notified, a number far exceeding any total yearly number of notifications during the last ten years. Even in the

years of bi-ennial increase, the total had only twice since 1947 been over the 300 notification mark.

In 1956, the number of Measles notifications had been abnormally low, only 26, and in 1954, 90 cases were notified. In the intervening years, there had been a slight rise, (1955 - 238, 1953 - 227), so there were a large number of children in the district who had never had the disease, who were therefore very susceptible.

The number of notifications dropped to 87 in March and more rapidly during the spring and summer months. A total of 775 cases of Measles was notified during the year.

Whooping Cough. The number of notifications of Whooping Cough followed the general pattern of the last few years, a steady decline to 24 cases in 1957 from 37, in 1956, 53 in 1955, and 130, in 1954.

The progressive increase in the number of children being protected against the disease by vaccination is now showing its effect.

Scarlet Fever. The incidence of Scarlet Fever which had risen slightly in the preceding year, decreased to a total of 11 notified cases during the year from 19, in 1956, and 17, in 1955. The disease was uniformly of a mild type.

Diphtheria. A case of Diphtheria, clinically very mild was notified on 19th August. The patient, a woman of 45, had symptoms of a sore throat with a patch on one tonsil and some constitutional symptoms. Bacteriological examination of throat swabs showed the presence of *C. Diphtheriae* (virulent) as the only organism isolated. Symptoms quickly subsided and the throat gradually cleared. There was no record of the patient ever having been immunised nor could she remember being done.

Two sons aged 13 and 10 years respectively, had positive throat swabs but symptoms of only very slight sore throat. They were fully immunised having had refresher doses in 1953, and were regarded as contacts.

It was several weeks before consecutive negative throat swabs of the boys were obtained.

This was the first case notified in the County since 1952. The patient had been on holiday in the south and returned home by train seven days before the onset of symptoms.

In view of the train of events it was reassuring to know that the level of immunisation in Gosforth is high and has been steadily kept up.

In 1956, the records showed that 93% of all children from 1-15 years and 98% of children 5-15 years had been immunised at some time during their lives and that 78% of all children of 1-15 years had had a primary course or reinforcing injection during the last five years.

Primary and Influenzal Pneumonia. Notifications of primary and influenzal pneumonia numbered 17 compared with 10 in the previous year. Nine of these occurred during the last quarter of the year when influenza was prevalent. In the month of December 5 cases of pneumonia were notified, an unusually high number and in most of the cases probably due to the Influenza virus.

Dysentery. Notifications of Sonne Dysentery decreased to a total of 21 cases during the year. During the two previous years notifications had numbered 35 and 43 respectively. Sixteen of the cases in 1957 occurred in a children's ward at the St. Nicholas Hospital during the months of July and August.

The other cases were isolated ones.

Food Poisoning. Three isolated cases of food poisoning were notified, one was a temporary visitor to the district who was ill on arrival. Bacteriological examination showed Salmonella Typhi-murium in one case, coagulase positive staphylococci in another, and the third case showed negative results. No complete link with food could be established.

Poliomyelitis. No case of poliomyelitis was notified during the year compared with three in 1956.

Influenza. As in previous winters, in accordance with the Ministry of Health's request, the general practitioners of the district co-operated in keeping watch for the first signs of any outbreak of influenza as distinct from the common cold and its complications. Greatly increased prevalence of

influenza commenced in September, continued through the early part of October and abated towards the end of the month.

In type, the illness conformed to that generally prevalent at the time which was due to a type A virus. Sudden onset with, in severe cases, marked constitutional symptoms and varying degrees of upper respiratory infection.

Complications were few but several cases of Influenzal Pneumonia mainly in middle aged and elderly people were notified during the last quarter of the year.

IV. HOUSING.

Applications for Council houses numbered 854 at the end of the year. The total number of houses erected by the Council since 1944 was 1,444; no new houses being erected in 1957.

Three tuberculous families were rehoused to more suitable housing accommodation on medical grounds.

These figures have been kindly supplied by the Housing Officer.

V. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1951.

Section 47. Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention. Five new cases were investigated. These cases together with the cases already known involved forty-four visits by members of the department.

One of the new cases, concerned an elderly gentleman living alone who was found in his own house in a collapsed condition. He was removed to Preston Hospital, and later, transferred to a residential establishment at Berwick. One case concerned two elderly sisters who were living alone and unable to look after themselves. This condition was met by the provision of a Home Help. The three remaining cases were referred to the County Welfare Department. One of these three cases concerned a sister and brother who were aged 93 years and 91 years respectively.

It was not found necessary to take any formal action.

Section 50. Burial or Cremation of the Dead. No burial took place under this Section.

VI. MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949.

During the year one hundred and twenty-two samples of milk and twenty-eight samples of ice-cream were procured and submitted to the laboratory for examination. Nine samples of milk were submitted for examination for the presence of tubercle bacilli and found to be negative.

Details of the results of these samples will be found in the report of the Senior Public Health Inspector.

VII. FOOD HYGIENE.

During the year over five hundred visits were made by the inspectors of the various food premises in the district. Although it was necessary to serve several informal notices in connection with infringements of the Food Hygiene Regulations the general standard of hygiene throughout the district remains high.

VIII. ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

No complaint of any major importance was received during the year.

At the end of the year an application was received in connection with the St. Nicholas Hospital for prior approval under Section 3 of the Clean Air Act, to instal a new steam boiler plant. This application was in respect of the second of the two new boilers, with mechanical stokers, to be installed at the hospital.

This application as described was approved.

As already stated in previous reports when the installation is complete a great deal will have been achieved in the task of providing cleaner air in the district.

IX. HEALTH EDUCATION.

On occasion, talks on health topics were given by members of the department to various groups of people.

X. WELFARE OF OLD PEOPLE.

The work of this Committee, which was formed in 1955, continued steadily throughout the year. A rota of friendly visitors numbering about 46 was formed and has proved of great value and comfort to the old people.

Chiropody treatment, when needed, is arranged.

Co-operation with other voluntary bodies interested in the welfare of the elderly became strengthened.

Information as to illness among members of the Darby and Joan Club is passed on to the Committee so that help can be given when required,

XI. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Details are contained in the report of the Senior Public Health Inspector.

HEALTH SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT.

(a) Regional Hospital Board. There are two hospitals in the Urban District, the St. Nicholas Hospital for the treatment of mental diseases and the Sanderson Orthopaedic Hospital.

(b) Tuberculosis Service. Cases from the Urban District attend the Chest Clinic, New Bridge Street, Newcastle upon Tyne, under the Senior Chest Physician.

Institutional treatment is provided in one of the Sanatoria in Walkergate Hospital, or in the case of children, at the Children's Sanatorium at Stannington.

(c) Local Authorities Services. Services (3) (4) (5) (6) and (7) and the care of the buildings in Section (2) are administered by the South Area Health Sub-Committee of the Northumberland County Council.

(1) Home Nursing and Midwifery.

There are three general nurses and two midwives resident in the district.

(2) Maternity and Child Welfare Service.

Regular sessions are held at the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, Church Road, Gosforth, for babies, children and expectant mothers, for dental treatment, for the treatment of eye defects, and skin diseases, and for other special groups.

(3) Ambulance Service.

The nearest ambulance depot is at Wideopen, three miles to the north. This depot covers the Urban Districts of Gosforth and Longbenton (with the exception of West Allotment) and adjacent parts of Castle Ward, and works in conjunction with other depots in the county.

The establishment at Wideopen consists of 14 driver attendants (including two stretcher bearers) and four radio control assistants, all under the control of a driver-supervisor.

There are five ambulances (three petrol and two diesel) and one sitting car.

The system, which was introduced in April, 1956, whereby all calls between 4.0 p.m., to 8.0 a.m., weekdays and from noon on Saturdays to 8.0 a.m., Mondays from the southern part of the county are received at Wideopen and then relayed to the eight southern stations covering that area, has worked satisfactorily.

During the year, ambulances of this station made 6,659 journeys, carried 20,996 patients, of which 756 were accident and emergency cases and 3,518 stretcher cases (265 being emergency stretcher cases) and did a total mileage of 170,121 miles.

(4) Immunisation and Vaccination.

As in former years, vaccination against Diphtheria was carried out at the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre by the general practitioners and at intervals, at the Schools.

At 31st December 1957, 92% (93%) of the total child population of the district had been immunised at some time during their lives; 81% (83%) of the children 0-4 years and 98% (96%) of the children 5-14 years.

The figures in brackets indicate the percentage in the groups for the previous year.

The Immunity Index, introduced in 1953, which shows the number of children in each age group immunised during the last five years was as follows :-

Children under one year	28% (33%)
" 1-4 years	94% (97%)
" 5-14 years	65% (75%)

The total Immunity Index for all children under 15 years of age was 71% (78%).

There was a slight general decrease in the figures for 1957, but during the second and third quarters of the year the vaccination of registered children against poliomyelitis was in full swing and in some cases would result in the postponement of immunisation against diphtheria.

The immunisation against diphtheria of children under one year of age remained at a high level.

There was a slight general decrease in the figures for 1957 on those of the previous year, but they were still slightly higher than in 1955.

The immunity index for children under one year of age which dropped to 28% in 1957 from 33% in 1956 was still considerably higher than in 1955 when it was 23%.

It is of prime importance that immunisation against diphtheria be not allowed to recede even slightly in favour of other protective injections. This is borne in mind by doctors and health visitors working in this field in advising mothers how to fit injections in.

Whooping Cough Prophylaxis. A total of 417 children (481) received prophylactic injections against Whooping Cough, either by combined or triple antigen or by a single vaccine. Of these, 301 were under one year of age, 96 children between 1-4 years, 20 children, 5-14 years.

Combined diphtheria and pertussis vaccine was chosen by the majority of parents.

Tetanus. The triple antigen of Whooping Cough, Diphtheria and Tetanus was used for 42 children, 28 being under one year of age, compared with a total of 20 in 1956.

Vaccination against Poliomyelitis. From April onwards vaccination of the first and second group registrations of children from 5-10 years of age and later for children 6 months to 15 years of age took place and a total of 1,308 children received two injections, given by their family doctors at clinic or surgery or by county doctors at the clinic or schools.

Vaccination against Smallpox. Primary vaccinations against Smallpox increased slightly to a total of 250 from 219, in 1956 and 1955 and 159, in 1954.

There were 76 re-vaccinations compared with 65, in 1956 and 58, in 1955.

The increase in primary vaccinations is encouraging but is still small being only a little over 50% of the births. A considerable proportion of the population remains at risk especially in these days of even more rapid air travel and further continued efforts in this direction are required.

(5) Home Help Service.

A total 241 (210) persons residing in the urban district received the services of a home help for varying periods during the year.

The cases comprised 18 (27) confinements, 52 (49) of acute illness, 160 (123) aged and infirm persons, 6 (6) blind and 4 (5) tuberculous persons.

There was an increase in the number of aged and infirm persons receiving the service. This number increases year by year and is of great value to the community, enabling elderly people of both sexes to remain at home in their later years. It also helps to conserve hospital beds.

(6) Care and After-care.

The Gosforth and Castle Ward After-care Sub-Committee held regular three monthly meetings.

As in previous years, aid to tuberculous persons in need of milk, clothing, travelling expenses of relatives to hospital, etc., and in other matters was given in necessitous cases.

With the decline in incidence of tubercle fewer cases required help, so the scope of the Sub-Committee was enlarged to include cases suffering from cardiac and other chest diseases.

7. Nursing Care Committee.

This Committee continued its useful work in loaning articles of nursing equipment to residents of the district as required.

The work continued on a fairly considerable scale, 324 articles of equipment being loaned to 215 persons for varying periods. Also 50 persons had the loan of a wheel chair during the year.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.Particulars of District.

Area	1739
Registrar General's estimated population	24,990
Number of inhabited houses according to rate books at 31st March, 1957.	7867
Sum represented by Penny rate	£1348. 7. 8
Rateable value at 31st March, 1957.	£336,753.

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Live births (legitimate)	190	155	345
Live births (illegitimate)	6	6	12
Still births	4	10	14
Deaths	204	215	419
Birth rate per 1,000 population			15.1
Still birth rate per 1,000 live and still births.			37.7
Death rate per 1,000 estimated population			12.7

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

There was one maternal death.

Death rate of infants under 1 year.

All infants per 1,000 live births	11.2
Legitimate infants per 1,000 live births	8.4
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 live births	2.8

Deaths.

Deaths from Malignant Diseases (all ages)	48
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	-
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	-
Deaths from Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea (all ages)	3

CAUSES OF DEATH.(taken from the Registrar General's Return).

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females</u>
All causes	204 (48)	215 (80)
Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	-
Tuberculosis, other	-	2
Syphilitic disease	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-
Meningococcal infections	-	-
Acute poliomyelitis	-	-
Measles	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	5	22
Malignant neoplasm, bronchus	10	1 (1)
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	3
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	3
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	10 (3)	12 (1)
Leukaemia, alcaukemia	1	1
Diabetes	1	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	26 (5)	33 (18)
Coronary disease, angina	38 (10)	21 (3)
Hypertension with heart disease	2	3
Other heart disease	57 (20)	88 (42)
Other circulatory disease	4	4
Influenza	2	2
Pneumonia	2	5 (2)
Bronchitis	19 (6)	2
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	2 (1)
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	2	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	4 (1)	1 (1)
Hyperplasia of prostate	5	-
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	1
Congenital malformations	-	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	11 (3)	16 (6)
Motor vehicle accidents	1	2 (1)
All other accidents	1	6 (4)
Suicide	2	-
Homicide and operations of war	-	-

TABLE OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS FOR THE PAST 20 YEARS
(1938-1957) compared with rates for England and Wales.

Year	General Death Rate.		Infant Mortality Rate.		Birth Rate.	
	Gosforth	England & Wales	Gosforth	England & Wales	Gosforth	England & Wales
1938	11.0	11.6	32.4	53	13.6	15.7
1939	9.78	12.1	18.0	50	13.4	15.5
1940	11.2	14.3	64.4	55	13.5	15.1
1941	10.0	11.6	50.2	53	11.2	15.7
1942	9.47	11.6	13.6	49	14.4	16.3
1943	10.7	12.1	24.1	49	16.4	17.0
1944	10.7	11.6	29.6	46	18.2	18.1
1945	13.1	11.4	36.2	46	16.0	16.5
1946	10.6	11.5	22.8	43	17.6	19.6
1947	9.1	12.0	23.6	41	18.7	21.0
1948	9.9	10.8	24.7	34	16.7	18.3
1949	9.9	11.7	28.8	32	15.7	16.7
1950	13.1	11.6	11.4	29.8	14.5	15.8
1951	11.1	12.5	25.2	29.6	14.5	15.5
1952	9.2	11.3	24.9	27.6	14.6	15.3
1953	14.1	11.4	16.1	26.8	14.1	15.5
1954	13.5	11.3	35.1	25.5	15.3	15.2
1955	15.7	11.7	28.7	24.9	17.2	15.3
1956	11.2	11.7	14.4	23.8	17.0	15.7
1957	12.7	11.5	11.2	23.0	15.1	16.1

INFANT MORTALITY.

Asphyxia neonatorum, prematurity	2 days
Multiple congenital anomalies, prematurity	3 days
Cerebral haemorrhage, prematurity	3 days
Gastroenteritis, bronchitis	11 months

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND
OTHER DISEASES.

The table on page gives the number and age groups of the cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year.

Cases requiring hospital treatment and isolation are removed to the hospital for Infectious Diseases, Walkergate. This hospital is controlled by the Regional Hospital Board.

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE.

Appended is a summary of Bacteriological reports received from the Public Health Laboratory Service, Newcastle General Hospital, on specimens submitted by local medical practitioners and by the Health Department.

	<u>Positive.</u>	<u>Negative.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Throat swabs for Haemolytic			
Spreptococci	15	46	61
Throat swabs for Diphtheria	11	51	62
Throat swabs for Vincent's Angina	-	16	16
Specimens of faeces for pathogenic			
organisms	4	35	39
Throat swabs for coagulase positive			
staphylococci	3	10	13
	<hr/>		
	33	158	191
	<hr/>		

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Table of Cases notified in the Urban District during 1957, set out in age groups.

	At all ages.	Under 1 yr.	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	65 & over
Scarlet Fever	11	1	1	-	-	-	7	2	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Whooping Cough	24	2	-	4	6	3	9	1	-	-	-	-
Measles	775	22	74	91	95	137	344	9	3	-	-	-
Enteric-typhoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	21	1	-	-	-	-	1	3	4	8	2	2
Pneumonia	17	2	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	6	5	2
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	6	-	2
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Optic neuritis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Infective	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	3	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Malaria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	865	27	76	96	102	140	361	16	8	23	8	6

FOOD POISONING RETURN, 1957.

Outbreaks due to identified agents :-

Total outbreaks ... Nil Total cases ... Nil

Outbreaks due to :-

(a)	Chemical poisons	Nil
(b)	Salmonella	Nil
(c)	Staphylococci (including toxin)	Nil
(d)	Cl. botulinum	Nil
(e)	Other bacteria	Nil

Outbreaks of undiscovered cause :-

Total outbreaks ... Nil Total cases ... Nil

Single Cases - Agent identified :-

(a)	Salmonella Typhi-murium	One
(b)	Staphylococci	One

Single Cases - Unknown cause One.

TABLE OF DIPHTHERIA NOTIFICATIONS AND DEATHS.

<u>Year.</u>	<u>No. of cases of Diphtheria.</u>	<u>No. of deaths.</u>
1936	39	-
1937	25	-
1938	27	2
1939	23	1
1940	8	1
1941	9	-
1942	10	1
1943	5	1
1944	12	1
1945	15	-
1946	5	-
1947	3	-
1948	3	-
1949	-	-
1950	1	1
1951	-	-
1952	1	-
1953	-	-
1954	-	-
1955	-	-
1956	-	-
1957	1	-

TUBERCULOSIS.

AGE PERIOD	<u>New Cases</u>		<u>Deaths.</u>	
	<u>Respiratory</u> Male	<u>Female</u> Female	<u>Respiratory</u> Male, Female	<u>Non-respiratory</u> Male Female
Under 1 yr	-	-	-	-
1-5 years	-	-	-	-
5-10 years	-	1	-	-
10-15 years	1	1	-	-
15-20 years	-	1	-	-
20-25 years	2+(2 I.T)	.. (1 I.T)	-	-
25-35 years	1*(1 I.T)	2+ (2 I.T)	-	-
35-45 years	3+(2 I.T)	- +(1 R.R)	-	-
45-55 years	1	2	-	-
55-65 years	2+(1 I.T)	-	-	-
65 & over	-	1	-	-
	10+(6 I.T)	8+ { 3 I.T + (1 R.R)	-	-
		1 + (1 I.T)	-	2

I.T. Inward transfer
R.R. Returned to register.

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF TUBERCULOSIS STATISTICS FOR RECENT YEARS.

New cases on the Register
(including inward transfers)

Deaths.

No. on register at end of year

	New cases on the Register (including inward transfers)			Deaths.			No. on register at end of year		
	Pulmonary M. F.	Tot.	Non-pulmonary M. F.	Pulmonary M. F.	Tot.	Non-pulmonary M. F.	Pulmonary M. F.	Tot.	Non-pulmonary M. F.
1943	10	16	1	9	14	-	45	38	14
1944	17	35	-	5	8	1	47	37	9
1945	17	27	55	3	10	1	51	39	10
1946	14	22	6	4	9	1	57	38	11
1947	11	18	4	3	10	1	52	36	10
1948	12	25	4	5	16	1	40	30	5
1949	22	39	1	8	7	-	55	38	6
1950	16	27	3	4	12	1	59	45	7
1951	22	31	2	9	5	1	74	61	9
1952	17	34	6	4	3	3	83	72	10
1953	11	28	7	1	10	-	82	77	13
1954	27	42	2	2	3	1	104	85	14
1955	19	39	5	3	4	-	113	92	16
1956	16	29	2	1	1	-	121	98	21
1957	16	28	2	1	1	2	125	223	18

TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER 1957.

Quarter ended	No. of cases: on register at commencement of Quarter.		No. of cases notified for the first time.		No. of cases removed from register.		No. of cases remaining.	
	Pul.	Non-pul	Pul.	Non-pul	Pul.	Non-pul	Pul.	Non-pul
31st Mar. 1957	Males 121 Females 92	16 21	4 2	- -	2 -	- 1	123 94	16 20
30th June, 1957	Males 123 Females 94	16 20	5 3	- 1	6 2	- -	122 95	16 21
30th Sept. 1957	Males 122 Females 95	16 21	6 3	2 -	3 2	- 1	125 96	18 20
31st Dec. 1957	Males 125 Females 96	18 20	1 3	- 1	1 1	- -	125 98	18 21

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1957.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting to you my Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1957.

On the 30th September, Mr. Oxley, Additional Public Health Inspector left the service of this Council to take up a similar appointment with the Stanley Urban District Council. Mr. Oxley, for whom I had the greatest regard, held his appointment with this Council for eight years. I cannot speak too highly of the excellent work carried out by him, and I truly wish him well in his new appointment.

Mr. Oxley's successor was Mr. Neil Scott from Jedburgh, who was appointed on the 18th November, 1957.

I welcome Mr. Scott into the Department and trust that he will soon settle down and that he will be happy in the service of this Council.

WATER SUPPLY.

The whole of the district has a piped water supply provided by the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company. I am again indebted to the Engineer of the Company for supplying the following information relating to the bacteriological and chemical analyses of samples of water taken throughout the Company's area during the year under review.

Bacteriological Analysis.

At the Company's laboratories, 1,187 samples of water were examined bacteriologically, resulting in 1,182 being classified "excellent" and 5 "satisfactory".

Various authorities within the Company's supply area also carried out their customary analyses and out of a total number of 368 samples thus examined, 360 were classified "excellent" and 5 "satisfactory". Of the 3 samples not placed in these categories, check samples taken by the Newcastle Corporation and also by the Company all gave "excellent" results. In one case the faulty sample was attributable to the tenant fitting a washer cut from leather of very doubtful origin.

Bi-monthly chemical analyses, carried out by a firm of consulting chemists, gave satisfactory results in all cases.

These results show that both bacteriologically and chemically the water supplied by the Company is of a very high standard of purity.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Refuse Collection.

Speaking generally, I think it can be stated that the residents of the urban district of Gosforth are more than satisfied with the service provided. I make this claim notwithstanding the fact that I still receive the odd complaint alleging irregularity of collections. Fortunately, these complaints are only associated with periods following public holidays or during abnormal weather conditions. Apart from these periods, collections from all premises are carried out at least once per week.

To attempt to follow a rigid time-table following a public holiday is a problem of some magnitude. Two alternatives are available, firstly, to commence work one or two days according to the extent of the holiday, behind schedule and endeavour to catch up in the space of a week or two, or secondly, to miss out entirely the lost collection day(s). In making a choice of the alternatives I find myself in a dilemma, for abandonment of the time-table for a week or two brings forth a number of complaints, while to adhere to the time-table at the expense of those householders who are normally visited on the particular day(s) gives rise to many complaints by the minority.

It will be necessary in the near future to augment the collecting staff and the number of vehicles in order to provide for the additional work created by the construction of new dwelling houses on The Fairway (Brunton Park), Regent Farm Estate and Fawdon Farm Estate.

Refuse Disposal.

Three refuse tips, namely the Benton, Burradon and Wideopen Tips, all situated in the urban district of Longbenton were used in the disposal of approximately 11,000 tons of refuse from this district.

As in previous years, the expenditure incurred in this operation is equally borne by the Longbenton and Gosforth Councils.

At this juncture, may I on your behalf extend to the Chairman and members of the Longbenton Council a sincere word of thanks for continuing to grant to this Council facilities for the disposal of refuse.

Salvage Disposal.

The quantity of waste paper forwarded to the Board Mills during the financial year ended the 31st March, 1958 was 368 tons. This figure, which was 2 tons less than that which was forwarded during the previous financial year, represents 1.23 tons per 1,000 of population per month. Despite this slight drop in tonnage, I am pleased to state that there was a slight increase in income.

Owing to the "Limitation of Deliveries" plan introduced by the Board Mills our output was restricted to 30 tons per month, which in accordance with an agreement made with the Board Mills had to consist of 27 tons mixed paper and 3 tons fibreboard.

Transport.

Our fleet of vehicles which consists of the four Shelvoke and Drewry fore and aft tipping wagons, plus the side-loader Dennis, continues to give satisfactory service. As I have already stated earlier in this section of my report, the fleet will soon have to be augmented. Bearing in mind the possibility of increasing distances to points of disposal, emphasis should be on the purchase of even larger vehicles.

Costing Returns (1957-58).

In the introductory remarks to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government Public Cleansing Costing Return, reference is again made to the tendency to over-estimate tonnages so as to obscure the true unit costs, where refuse is not actually weighed.

Collection and Disposal - Unit Costs.

Authorities which weighed 80 per cent or more of their refuse showed an average net cost per ton of 53/6d. the corresponding figure for authorities weighing less than 80 per cent was 34/7d.

The costs appertaining to this district and relating to 1,000 of population and per 1,000 premises are described on the opposite page. For the sake of comparison I have covered a period of three years, and also included similar costs relating to districts with a population range of under 30,000.

Per 1,000 of population.

	1954/55	1955/56	1956/7
	£	£	£
Gosforth U.D.C.	467	500	545
Other Authorities	524	499	556

Per 1,000 premises

	£	£	£
Gosforth U.D.C.	1379	1498	1703
Other Authorities	1677	1602	1810

Staff

I cannot conclude this section of my report without a word of praise for Mr. George Oliver and the outside staff, to whom I am indebted for their endeavours.

COST STATEMENT 1957 - 58

Item	Particulars	Collection	Disposal	Totals	Percentage of total gross expenditure
	1	2	3	4	5
	<u>REVENUE ACCOUNT</u> (Note (a))	£	£	£	£
1	GROSS EXPENDITURE:				
	(i) Labour (note (b))	8720	1409	10129	59.2
	(ii) Transport (note (b))	4167	1289	5456	31.9
	(iii) Plant, equipment, land and buildings (note (d))	94	10	104	.6
	(iv) Other items (note (e))	176	1240	1416	8.3
	(v) Total gross expenditure	13157	3948	17105	100.0
2	GROSS INCOME (note (f))	63	2939	3002	-
3	NET COST	13094	1009	14103	-
4	Capital expenditure met from revenue (included above) (note (g))	-	-	-	-
	<u>UNIT COSTS</u> (note (h))				
		s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	
5	Gross cost per ton, labour only	15 1	2 5	17 6	
6	Gross cost per ton, transport only	7 2	2 3	9 5	
7	Net cost (all expenditure) per ton	22 8	1 9	24 5	
		£	£	£	
8	Net cost per 1000 population	524	40	564	
9	Net cost per 1000 premises	1491	115	1606	

OPERATIONAL STATISTICS

10.	Area (statute acres) - land and inland water	1739 acres
11.	Population at 30th June, 1957 (Registrar-General's Estimate)	24990 persons
12.	Total refuse collected (tons). (Test-weighings)	11570 tons
13.	Weight (cwts) per 1000 population per day (365 days to year)	25.4 cwts
14.	Number of premises from which refuse is collected	8779 premises
15.	Premises from which collections are made <u>at least</u> once weekly	100% of total
16.	Average haul, single journey, to final disposal point (including - miles by secondary transport)	4 miles
17.	Kerbside collection expressed as estimated percentage of total collection.....	Nil%
18.	Total refuse disposed of (of which - tons were disposed of for other local authorities)	11570 tons
19.	Methods of disposal (Salvage excluded):	
	(a) Crude tipping	- %
	(b) Controlled tipping	100 %
	(c) Direct incineration	- %
	(d) Separation and incineration	- %
	(e) Other methods.(state nature)	- %
		<hr/> 100 %
20.	Salvage. Analysis of income and tonnage:	

	Income (Included in Item 2)	Tonnage Collected (Included in Item 12)
	£	Tons
(a) Raw Kitchen Waste (note (a))	-	-
(b) Scrap Metal	-	-
(c) Waste Paper	2867	368
(d) Other Salvage	-	-
(e) Totals	<hr/> 2867	<hr/> 368

21. Trade Refuse:

(a) Income	Nil
(b) Tonnage	Nil
	tons

NOTES

- (a) Comprising the expenditure directly attributable to the service, including sums paid to other local authorities. Excluding all expenditure and income arising from the operation of kitchen waste processing plant but including expenditure on normal collection of raw kitchen waste and (against Items 2 and 20 (a)) an appropriate amount of income corresponding to its sale.
- (b) "Labour" means all employees other than clerical staff, drivers and mechanics. Expenditure includes holiday and sick pay, bonus payments, all superannuation charges, employer's contributions to national insurance and the cost of protective clothing and uniforms.
- (c) Transport means all types of vehicles and expenditure includes running and maintenance costs, wages of drivers and mechanics and other revenue expenses (including loan charges).
- (d) Including running costs, maintenance expenses, loan charges and all sums charged to revenue account in respect of the provision or renewal of buildings, plant, dustbins, etc. Costs of war damage repairs should be excluded.
- (e) Including salaries and wages not already mentioned, payments to other local authorities for collection and/or disposal of refuse and payments to contractors. Excluding all administration and office expenses. No part of the Chief Officer's salary should be included.
- (f) To ensure statistical uniformity all salvage income (except raw kitchen waste) should be credited to Disposal. Trade refuse collection income should be credited two-thirds to Collection and one-third to Disposal. Income from raw kitchen waste should be credited to the account which bears the cost of its collection.
- (g) Item 4 excludes and Item 1 includes loan charges and contributions to depreciation funds.
- (h) Gross unit costs of collection and disposal should be based on the tonnage shown at Items 12 and 18 respectively but the net cost of disposal should be based on the tonnage of the Council's own refuse, i.e. excluding refuse received from other local authorities.

HOUSINGThe Rent Act, 1957.

The general objectives of this Act, which came into force on July 6th, have been described as to enable rented houses and flats to be put and kept in good repair, to increase the total stock of rented accommodation, and to make a beginning on the restoration of a free market in rented housing.

In a circular issued just before the Act came into force, the Minister of Housing and Local Government asked Local Authorities to make the fullest use of the powers contained in the Housing Act and the Public Health Act to secure that essential work is done. He reminded Local Authorities that provisions contained within these Acts gave adequate powers to do work, if a landlord failed to do so, and to recover the cost from the landlord.

The first step to be taken towards the issue of a Certificate of Disrepair has to be taken by the tenant, who is required to serve on his landlord a notice in the prescribed form (Form G) specifying the items which he is of the opinion require attention. In point of fact the tenant is required to prepare a Schedule of Disrepair, and I have found that this is beyond the capacity of many. I have found on numerous occasions that items of major importance, items which could properly be regarded as items of disrepair, have been excluded, and that items of relatively minor importance have been included.

If the work specified on Form G. has not been carried out within six weeks of the service of the notice on the landlord, the tenant may apply to the Local Authority for a Certificate of Disrepair, unless during that time the landlord has given an undertaking to remedy the defects. The landlord has six months in which to remedy the defects contained in his undertaking.

Where no such undertaking has been given a Local Authority is empowered to issue a Certificate of Disrepair, but before doing so they must serve a notice on the landlord stating that they propose to issue a certificate and specifying the defects to which it relates. The landlord may, within three weeks after the service of the notice give an undertaking that he will remedy the defects, the Local Authority must not then issue the certificate. If the landlord remedies the defects he may apply to the Local Authority for the cancellation of the Certificate. The Local Authority must serve a notice on the tenant informing him that unless he objects within three weeks, they propose to cancel the certificate. If the Local Authority cancel the Certificate the tenant may appeal against the decision to the County Court. The landlord has a similar right of appeal if the Local Authority refuse to cancel the Certificate.

Part I - Application for Certificates
of Disrepair.

- (1) Number of applications for certificates16
(one withdrawn)
- (2) Number of decisions not to issue certificatesNil
- (3) Number of decisions to issue certificates 4
(a) in respect of some but not all defects 2
(b) in respect of all defects 2
- (4) Number of undertakings given by Landlords under
Paragraph 5 of the First Schedule10
- (4c) Number of notices outstanding in Form J 1
- (5) Number of undertakings refused by Local Authority under
proviso to paragraph 5 of the First ScheduleNil
- (6) Number of Certificates issued 4

Part II - Applications for Cancellation
of Certificates.

- (7) Applications by Landlords to Local Authority for
cancellation of certificates 6
(1954 Acts Certificates)
- (8) Objections by tenants to cancellation of certificates.....Nil
- (9) Decision by Local Authority to cancel in spite of
tenant's objectionNil
- (10) Certificates cancelled by Local Authority 6

HOUSES IN CLEARANCE AREAS AND UNFIT HOUSES ELSEWHERE.

A. Houses Demolished.

	Houses Demolished	<u>Displaced Persons.</u>	
		Persons	Families
Houses unfit for human habitation.	7	11	7

B. Unfit Houses Made Fit and Houses in which Defects were Remedied.

	By Owner	By L.A.
After informal action by Local Authority	74	-
After formal notice under -		
(a) Public Health Acts.	12	1
(b) Housing Act, 1936.	3	2

C. Purchase of Houses by Agreement.

	No. of Houses.	No. of occupants of houses in column (1) (2)
Houses in Clearance Areas other than those included in confirmed Clearance Orders or Compulsory Orders.	45	123

Housing Act, 1957.

This Act which consolidates the various Acts relating to housing with the exception of certain provisions relating to financial matters, came into force on the 1st September, 1957.

RODENT INFESTATION

I am pleased to report that the amount of work engaged in by your Officers during the year in this particular field again showed a reduction upon the previous year.

Five hundred and twenty-six visits were made, involving ninety-four dwelling houses and eleven business premises. Primary inspections revealed that forty-six premises were found to be infested with rats, and fifty-three premises found to be infested with mice. No major infestations were encountered.

Many of the business premises, particularly the food businesses are under contract to servicing agents. Following upon initial treatment, test baiting is carried out at predetermined intervals. The advantages to be gained from this service are manifold, among which may be quoted, that the premises are kept under constant supervision, thus ensuring so far as food premises are concerned, that contamination of food is reduced to an absolute minimum.

As in previous years the rodenticides Warfarin, with a bait-base of oatmeal, and Zinc-phosphide, with a bait-base of sausage rusk were again used. The former rodenticide was used in connection with surface infestations, and the latter, in connection with the treatment of sewers.

Sewer Treatments.

During the year two sewer maintenance treatments were carried out, details of which are described below.

Treatment No.	No. of Manholes Treated.	Poison Takes.	
		Partial	Complete
1	134	9	-
2	134	10	1

VERMINOUS PREMISES

During the year forty-eight complaints were received in connection with verminous premises involving seventy-eight visits, including revisits, to various premises in the district. As in previous years the insects dealt with were quite varied, predominant amongst which was the cockroach. One complaint was received in connection with the bed-bug, but on inspection of the premises concerned, no evidence of bed-bug infestation was found. Many of the complaints received were in respect of garden insects which, migrating indoors, were causing considerable annoyance to the occupants.

SHOPS ACT, 1950.

It is to be regretted that for the time being the Shops Bill is "dead," and attempts to resuscitate this highly controversial matter do not appear to be possible during the foreseeable future.

There are two hundred and thirty shops in the district and the only Order in force in the district is the "Gosforth Weekly Half-day Holiday Exemption Order", made in 1914, and relates to Stationers' shops. The majority of shops in the district close at 1.0 p.m. on Wednesday and that is the assistant's half-day holiday.

During the year three traders were warned in connection with infringement of the provisions of the Act relating to Sunday Trading and three traders were warned in connection with infringements of the Act relating to the General Closing Hours. Two traders were requested to provide additional seats for female assistants.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 & 1948.

There are ninety-one registered factories in the District, Seventy-one mechanical factories and twenty non-mechanical factories, and six other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Authority.

Number of visits and notices served are shown as follows:-

Factories	No. on Register	No. of Inspections	Notices Served
Mechanical	71	161	16
Non-Mechanical	20	46	-
Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	6	20	-
Total	97	227	16

The type of defect dealt with is shown as follows:-

Particulars	Defects found	Defects remedied	Referred by H.M. Inspector
Want of cleanliness	2	2	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences:-			
(a) Insufficient	1	1	1
(b) Unsuitable or defective	25	17	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	-	-
Total	29	20	1

INSPECTION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES

Milk Supply.

Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949.

Number of dealers licences issued to retail "Tuberculin Tested" milk	3
---	---

Number of supplementary licences issued to retail "Tuberculin Tested" milk	14
---	----

Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations 1949.

Number of dealers licences issued to retail "Pasteurised" milk	8
---	---

Number of dealers licences issued to retail "Tuberculin Tested" milk	4
---	---

Number of supplementary licences issued to retail "Tuberculin Tested" (Pasteurised) milk.. ...	12
--	----

Number of supplementary licences issued to retail "Pasteurised" milk	14
---	----

Number of dealers licences issued to retail "Sterilised" milk	29
--	----

Number of supplementary licences issued to retail "Sterilised" milk	3
--	---

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

Number of persons registered as Distributors of milk	41
--	----

Number of premises registered as Dairies	2
---	---

Samples of Milk.

During the year one hundred and twenty-two samples of milk were procured and of this number one hundred and eighteen were submitted to the Methylene Blue keeping quality test. One hundred and four samples, representing 88 per cent of the total submitted, satisfied the Test. The corresponding percentage figure for the previous year was 89 per cent.

Seventy-two samples of Tuberculin Tested (Farm Bottled) milk were examined and out of this total, thirteen failed to satisfy the Test. The number of producers, all outside the urban district, associated with these unsatisfactory samples was six. It is only fair to state that with one exception, the results could justly be regarded as border-line cases. The one exception, however, gives cause for concern, out of a total of ten samples procured from this particular producer and submitted for examination, seven samples failed to satisfy the Test.

As in previous years, persistent cases of milk failing to pass the Methylene Blue Test are brought to the notice of the County Milk Production Officer.

During the year only nine samples of milk were submitted for examination for the presence of tubercle bacilli, all of which were found to be negative. The smallness of the number submitted was due to the non-acceptance by the laboratory of samples of milk procured from designated herds.

Samples of Ice-Cream.

During the year twenty-eight samples of ice-cream were submitted to the Methylene Blue Test.

The following table shows the results of the examination of these samples, together with their respective grading:-

Type of Sample		Time taken to Reduce Methylene Blue	Provisional Grade	Percentage of Total
Prewrapped	Loose			
18	3	$4\frac{1}{2}$ hours or more	1	75.0
1	3	$2\frac{1}{2}$ hours - 4 hours	2	14.3
Nil	2	$\frac{1}{2}$ hour - 2 hours	3	7.1
Nil	1	0 hours	4	3.6

The overall picture is somewhat brighter than the previous year, only one sample falling into Grade 4. As in previous years the high standard of prewrapped ice-cream was maintained; out of a total of nineteen samples submitted only one sample fell into Grade 2, and none into Grade 3 or 4.

In considering these results I think it would again be useful to reiterate the observations made by the sub-committee appointed to enquire into tests for the bacteriological grading of ice-cream.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK.

GRADE	B. Tuberculosis			Methylene Blue				Phosphatase/Turbidity Test.			
	Negative	Positive	Total	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Total	% Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Total	% Satisfactory
Tuberculin Tested (TB)	9	-	9	59	13	72	82.0	-	-	-	-
Tuberculin Tested (Past'd)	-	-	-	7	-	7	100.0	7	-	7	100
Pasteurised	-	-	-	38	1	39	97.4	39	-	39	100
Sterilised	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	4	100
Totals	9	-	9	104	14	118	88.1	50	-	50	100

"Owing to the numerous factors governing the hygienic quality of ice-cream it is unwise to pay too much attention to the bacteriological results on any single sample. Judgment should be based rather on a series of samples. It is suggested that over a six-monthly period 50 per cent of a vendor's samples should fall into Grade 1; 80 per cent into Grades 1 and 2; not more than 20 per cent into Grade 3, and none into Grade 4".

Food & Drugs Act, 1955 (Section 62)
(Licensing of Slaughter Houses)

There is only one slaughter-house in the district and it is privately owned and occupied by Messrs. T.M. Arkle & Son (Meat Purveyors) of 160 High Street, Gosforth. The slaughter-house is situated at the rear of 160 High Street, and the licence appertaining thereto, is due to expire on the thirty-first day of January, 1958.

The number of animals slaughtered, together with the results of the inspection of the carcasses and organs, are shown in the table on page 44.

Food Premises.

The number and type of the various food premises in the district is shown as follows:-

Type of Premises	No.	Type of Premises	No.
Grocers	27	Retail Bakers	11
General Dealers	27	Premises with "Off-licence"	9
Meat Purveyors	22	Fishmongers & Poulterers	5
Fruiterers	18	Bakchouses	4
Licensed Premises	16	Fried Fish & Chips	5
Confectioners	20	Cafes	3

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle Excl. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	219	Nil	8	676	Nil	Nil
Number inspected	219	Nil	8	676	Nil	Nil
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci</u>	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Whole carcases condemned						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	4	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	1.7%	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	10	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	4.5%	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
<u>Cysticerci</u>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Throughout the year a constant supervision of the one hundred and sixty-seven food premises in the district was again maintained.

The standard of hygiene throughout the district remains high, but nevertheless it was found necessary to serve informal notices on certain occupiers for non-compliance of the Food Hygiene Regulations. One firm was written to in connection with an employee who was smoking while actually engaged in the handling of open food.

An application from a general dealer claiming exemption from the provisions of the Regulations relating to washing facilities, on the grounds of restricted accommodation was not granted.

There still remain many differences of opinion on the interpretations of various provisions of the Regulations, but I think that they are generally acclaimed to be a big step in the right direction. I am of the opinion that the best results in this particular field of hygiene are achieved by using the Regulations as a moral force, rather than a legal force, and acting in the role as an adviser or educator.

Registration of Food Premises.

(Sec. 16, Food & Drugs Act, 1955).

During the year three more food premises were registered under Section 16, Food & Drugs Act, 1955, bringing the total of registered premises up to seventy-five.

Fifty premises are now registered for the sale of ice-cream and twenty-six premises registered for the preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale.

The type and number of food premises registered as above, are shown as follows:-

Type of Premises	No. Regd.	Type of Premises	No. Regd.
General Dealers	22	Bakehouses	4
Meat Purveyors	16	Retail Bakers	4
Confectioners	11	Fruiterers	4
Grocers	7	Fishmongers	1
Fried Fish & Chips	5	"Off-licence"	1

Food & Drugs Act, 1955.Section 2. (General protection for purchasers of Food or Drugs).Section 3. (Sale etc. of food unfit for human consumption).

During the year I had occasion to deal with quite an assortment of complaints alleging the finding of extraneous matter in food intended for sale for human consumption.

These complaints concerned the finding of cigarette ash in a loaf of bread; the sale of a tin of peeled tomatoes containing a layer of mould; the sale of jar of marmalade containing a small piece of wood; the sale of a packet of ground almonds containing a small portion of metal, and the sale of a packet of ground rice containing the larvae of the flour moth (*EPHESTIA KUHNIELLA*).

In four of the cases referred to above, it was resolved to confirm the action taken by your Senior Public Health Inspector, and in the remaining case it was resolved to issue a warning to the retailer concerned.

Unsound Food.(Voluntarily Surrendered).

The following articles of food weighing 709 pounds were examined following their voluntary surrender and condemned as unfit for human consumption.

118 lbs. Ham	3 Packets Cocoa
62 lbs. Sausage	6 Small Loaves
18 lbs. Onion Roll	1 Jar Jam
15 lbs. Pork	1 Packet Gravy Salt
12 lbs. Flour	42 Tins Vegetables
6 lbs. Beef	39 Tins Fruit
1 Sheep's Liver	30 Tins Meat
4 $\frac{1}{2}$ Boxes Pears	24 Tins Milk
6 Packets Cornflour	11 Tins Soup
6 Packets Jellies	2 Tins Fish
2 Ox Kidneys	2 Tins Spaghetti

Disposal of Condemned Food.

Following the practice of previous years, condemned meat, when in large quantities was forwarded to a local firm for processing into animal feeding meal, fertilisers, glues etc., prior to which it was suitably stained. All other types of food not suitable for processing were destroyed in the incinerator situated in the Council Yard.

Adulteration of Food.

I am indebted once more to Mr. C.L. Arlidge, Chief Weights and Measures Inspector to the Northumberland County Council for supplying me with the information relating to samples taken in the Urban District of Gosforth during 1957.

Mr. Arlidge informs me that a total of ninety-three samples were procured, all of which were found to comply with the requirements of the Food and Drugs Act and the Preservatives Regulations. Out of this total of ninety-three samples, thirty-four samples related to milk.

GENERAL INFORMATION.

The following tables show the number and nature of complaints received and dealt with during the year by your Public Health Inspectors, together with a summary of visits made and sanitary improvements effected.

TABLE 1.

(Complaints received and dealt with).

<u>Nature of Complaint</u>	<u>No. of Complaints</u>
Vermin (Rats and Mice)	74
Dampness (Dwelling-house)	11
Disrepair (do.)	69
Vermin (Insects)	48
Defective dustbins	28
Defective drains	17
Foul smells	17
Atmospheric pollution	1
Miscellaneous	<u>16</u>
Total	<u>281</u>

TABLE 11.
(Summary of Visits)

Dwelling Houses	1037
Cinemas and Dance Halls	12
Ditches and Streams	2
Drainage Systems	427
Drain Test:-	
Smoke	28
Water	240
Factories (Mechanical)	161
(Non-Mechanical)	66
Outworkers	6
Infectious Diseases Enquiries	58
Disinfections	16
Revisits	97
National Assistance Act	44
Rodent Infestation:-	
Rats	337
Mice	189
Refuse Collection - Supervision	600
Shops Act	540
Tents, Vans and Sheds	3
Milk Samples	122
Food Premises	626
Slaughter Houses	124
Verminous Premises	78
Miscellaneous	<u>114</u>
Total	<u>4927</u>

TABLE 111.

(Sanitary Improvements Effectuated)

Ceiling plaster repair or renewed	1
Chimneys or chimney stacks repaired	3
Doors repaired, rehung or renewed	14
Eaves-gutters cleaned-out, rep'd or ren'd	17
External walls pointed	5
Fallspouts repaired or renewed	5
Firegrates repaired, reset or renewed	2
Floors repaired, ventilated etc.	5
Handrails renewed	1
Roofs repaired	17
Sashcords renewed	14
Sink draining boards renewed/repared	2
Sink waste pipes repaired or renewed	5
Walls rendered internally	16
Wallplaster repaired or renewed	14
Water supplies repaired or renewed	1
Windows repaired; made to open	5
Yard paving repaired	3
Choked drains cleansed	11
Drains repaired	4
Food store provided	1
Dangerous walls repaired	2
Dustbins provided	78
W.C. basins renewed	2
W.C. cisterns repaired or renewed	6
W.C. structures repaired or renewed	<u>2</u>
Total	<u>236</u>

CONCLUSION.

In concluding my report I would like to thank the Chairman of the Council, the Chairman of the Health Committee, and all other members of the Council for the kind manner in which my reports to the various committees have been received and dealt with, and for the help and support given to me during the year.

I would also like to express to Dr. Hopper, and to all other Chief Officials, my sincere thanks for their kindly advice and co-operation on the many and varied matters coming within the purview of the Health Department.

It also gives me the greatest of pleasure once more to place on record my sincere appreciation of the high standard of work carried out by Mrs. Raine and Miss Oliver, and for their continued support during the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

GEORGE STENGER,
Senior Public Health Inspector.

